

SPECIFICATION

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OPTICAL SIGNAL RECEIVER WITH RPM, DATA AND DATA BAR OUTPUT

Cross Reference to Related Applications

This Application claims the benefit of earlier filed US Provisional Patent Application No. 60/371,818, filed April 11, 2002.

Background of Invention

[0001] The instant invention relates to optical receivers, and more particularly to an optical signal receiver system that provides for 5 signals, namely VCC, Ground, RPM (Receiver input Power Monitor), Data, and Data Bar outputs, using only the four external pins of a conventional TO can package.

[0002] Historically, the optical receiver is packaged in a metal housing which usually incorporates the optics as well. One such package is the TO can which, as illustrated in Fig. 1, has four external electrical leads. One of the leads is welded to the case (Pin1 – ground) while the other three go inside the case in order to bring out or feed in three additional signals (Pins 2–4).

[0003] The schematic of a typical optical receiver is shown in Fig 2. There are two major components in the receiver, namely the photodiode and the TIA (Transimpedance Amplifier). The ideal hookup for the TIA requires all four pins. These pins are Vcc (voltage supply), Ground, Data and Data Bar outputs. This poses no problem for a standard part configuration.

[0004]

However, on some designs, there is a need for bringing out another signal from the photodiode called RPM. If this is done, the Data Bar is usually not brought out of

the package and the only output signal is Data (Fig 3). Since Data and Data Bar are compliments of each other, an arrangement that does not have both signals reduces the output signal by half.

Summary of Invention

- [0005] The present invention provides a solution in which all five signals are made available with only four external pins.
- [0006] In order to provide for five signals on only four pins, two of the output signals are superimposed on each other in which one has a DC value (RPM) and one has an AC value (Data or Data Bar) (Fig 4). This is possible because the AC signal coming out of Dout and Dout Bar have an average DC value of zero (since it is a balanced signal of equal ones and zeros). Once the combined signal comes out of the TO can, the combined signal can be separated into two separate signals using a capacitor which blocks the DC signal (Data or Data Bar) and allows the AC signal to go through. The DC information is then extracted by filtering the AC information from the combined signal (Current Sense Circuit). Components R1 and C1 make sure that the output signal (Data or Data Bar) does not feedback to the input of the TIA by removing the AC component of the signal.
- [0007] Accordingly, among the objects of the instant invention are: the provision of an optical signal receiver that provides 5 signals, namely Vcc, Ground, RPM, Data, and Data Bar outputs, using only the four external pins of a conventional TO can package.
- [0008] Other objects, features and advantages of the invention shall become apparent as the description thereof proceeds when considered in connection with the accompanying illustrative drawings.

Brief Description of Drawings

- [0009] In the drawings which illustrate the best mode presently contemplated for carrying out the present invention:
- [0010] Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an optical receiver package in accordance with the present invention;

- [0011] Fig. 2 is a schematic view of a conventional output signal arrangement from an optical receiver;
- [0012] Fig. 3 is a schematic of an alternative output signal arrangement (including RPM) from an optical receiver package;
- [0013] Fig. 4 is a schematic view of a first embodiment of the output signal arrangement of the present invention; and
- [0014] Fig. 5 is a schematic view of a second embodiment of the output signal arrangement of the present invention.

Detailed Description

- [0015] Referring now to the drawings, the optical signal receiver of the instant invention is illustrated and generally indicated at 10 in Figs. 1 and 4. As will hereinafter be more fully described, the instant optical signal receiver 10 comprises a packaging portion generally indicated at 12 and a circuit portion generally indicated at 14.
- [0016] The packaging portion is best illustrated in Fig. 1 wherein the package 12 includes a can-shaped housing 16, a lens 18 configured in the front face of the housing 16 for permitting an optical light signal 20 to pass into the interior of the can, and four (4) output pin contacts 22, 24, 26, 28 for respective electrical signals. The individual pins 22, 24, 26, 28 are connected to respective contacts of the circuit 14 to be described hereinafter. The TO can package is conventional and well known in the optical receiver art, and no further specific construction details are believed to be necessary.
- [0017] The circuit portion 14 comprises a photo detecting element generally indicated at 30 and a transimpedance amplifier (TIA) generally indicated at 32. The photo detecting element 30 is illustrated in the preferred embodiment as a photodiode. However, it should be noted that photodiodes are not the only type of sensor that can be used. For example, a high voltage photodiode (APD), i.e. an avalanche photodiode, can also be used. Accordingly, the term "photo detecting element" is intended to encompass photodiodes as well as other suitable photo detecting elements. One lead 34 of the photodiode 30 is connected to the input of the TIA 32. Three direct signals, Vcc 36, Ground 38 and Data 40 are taken from the TIA and connected to pins 26, 22,

and 24 of the can package 12.

[0018] The second lead 42 of the photodiode 30 and the fourth output (Data Bar) 44 of the TIA are both connected to the Pin 4 (28) of the package 12 thus superimposing the AC Data Bar signal 44 and the DC RPM signal 46 onto the fourth pin 28. This is possible because the AC signal coming out of Data 40 and Data Bar 44 have an average DC value of zero (since it is a balanced signal of equal ones and zeros). Once the combined signal comes out of the TO can package 12 the two signals 44 and 46 are separated using a capacitor C3 which blocks the DC portion of the RPM signal 46 and allows the AC Data Bar signal 44 to go through to provide the Data Bar output 44. The DC portion of the RPM signal 46 is extracted prior to the capacitor C3 by tapping the combined signal and filtering the AC information from the combined signal using a Current Sense Circuit 48. The Current Sense Circuit 48 is a well known component in the electronics field and no further description or explanation of function is believed to be necessary.

[0019] A capacitor C2 at the Data Bar output 44 prevents the DC component of the Data Bar output signal 44 from passing through. If capacitor C2 was not present, the DC Current Sense Circuit 48 would be corrupted by the DC component of the Data Bar Signal 44.

[0020] Resistor R1 and Capacitor C1 make sure that the output Data Bar signal 44 does not feedback to the input of the TIA 32 by removing the AC component of the signal.

[0021] Turning now to Fig. 5, an alternative embodiment of the circuit configuration 14A is illustrated wherein the Data signal 40, rather than the Data Bar signal 44, is superimposed over the RPM signal 46. In this embodiment, Data Bar 44 is a direct output to Pin 3 (26), the Capacitor C2 is provided at the output of the Data Signal 40, and the Data Signal 40 is coupled to the RPM output 46, both coupled to Pin 4 (28). It should be understood that the basic concept of superimposing one of the data signals on the RPM signal is equally applicable to either the Data or Data Bar output and that both embodiments are equally effective within the scope of the invention.

[0022] As a further alternative embodiment, it should be understood that the anode and cathode terminals of the photo detecting element 30 could be reversed, thus biasing

the photo detecting element with a negative voltage instead of a positive voltage.

[0023] It can therefore be seen that the present invention provides a unique and novel packaging and circuit configuration for providing 5 separate signals using only the four standard external pins of a conventional TO can package of an optical receiver. For these reasons, the instant invention is believed to represent a significant advancement in the art which has substantial commercial merit.

[0024] While there is shown and described herein certain specific structure embodying the invention, it will be manifest to those skilled in the art that various modifications and rearrangements of the parts may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the underlying inventive concept and that the same is not limited to the particular forms herein shown and described except insofar as indicated by the scope of the appended claims.